

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022**

The meeting of the Environmental Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey and via remote video conference, was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Richard Wolf, Chair. The Opening Statement was made. Roll call was taken.

Present: Richard Wolf, Chair
 Richard Seibert, Co-Chair
 Janet Ariemma, Council Liaison (*remote*)
 Megan Charles (*joined call at 7:58 p.m.*)
 Jack Pfister (*remote*)
 Victoria Galow, Alternate I
 Gary Montroy, Alternate II
 Jennifer Storms, Secretary

Absent: Sally Coda
 Mike Devaney

The minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2022 were approved following a motion by Seibert; seconded by Pfister. Galow abstained. All other present members voted in favor.

There were no members of the public present. Wolf motioned to waive the Public Sessions on the Agenda. No objections were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Municipal Tree Ordinance Amendments – Gary Montroy

Montroy gave his feedback on the municipal tree ordinance changes the Commission has proposed. Members discussed. Montroy said we need to work together to put a procedure in place in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning and Building Departments. We need to establish a contract with a certified arborist to enforce the guidelines. Ariemma noted her concerns about the lack of enforcement, including two properties where she has observed excessive tree removals. Wolf will circulate another draft to members.

Trex Plastic Film Initiative

Wolf said we received the Trex collection containers and Coda has up to 24 high school volunteers to help monitor the bins. We will place bins at the Town Hall, DPW, Library, the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute and Continental Soldier's Park. We will have until December 15 to collect our goal of 500 lbs. This will qualify us for the award of a Trex bench to be placed in one of our parks. Galow will coordinate public relations with Coda.

Unaiza Chaudhry, 48 Pulis Avenue, Block 164, Lot 24, Docket #1515-22

At its May 27 Meeting, the Environmental Commission rejected a Board of Adjustment Application Review Report for the construction of a single-family residence on the

property. Members expressed their concerns about the property being located predominantly in a wetlands area. The property is almost entirely within wetlands and cannot support building within codes – see Exhibit N from the NJ Division of Land Resource Protection.

We received additional information about the application from the client’s attorney. The information was presented to the Commission.

Pfister said there is such a small margin of land around the wetlands, he cannot imagine how construction vehicles are going to navigate around the wetlands. He also expressed concerns about the safe placement of a septic system on this property. Wolf agreed with Pfister’s comments. The pictures submitted for the foundation layout show both ends of the foundation are on declining slopes to accommodate building around the wetlands. This property is not suitable for any significant development given the proximity to the wetlands and adjusted wetlands buffers.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

We still do not believe there is enough space between the buffer zone and wetlands, the sight lines on the property, and the overall development of the property. We also have concerns about how the applicant can safely put a septic system on the property.

Wolf made a motion to reject the application again based on the comments above; seconded by Pfister. Montroy abstained. All voted in favor of the rejection.

SITE PLAN REVIEWS

Myers, 81 Lakeview Drive, Block 2, Lots 55 & 56, Dkt. #1505-21

The Environmental Commission received a Board of Adjustment Application Review Report for a new single-family dwelling on the property.

Comments to Administrative Officer:

The Environmental Commission discussed its concerns about the non-conforming lot, steep slope adjacent to the septic field, and the proximity of the septic field to the border of the property. For reviewing the maps submitted, we counted three (3) trees were marked with an “X.” Please confirm three trees will be removed from the property.

Wolf made a motion to accept the application; seconded by Galow. Pfister and Charles voted no. Montroy abstained. All other present members voted in favor.

Bergbauer, 127 Lakeview Drive, Block 9, Lots 18 & 19, Dkt. #1518-22

The Environmental Commission received a Board of Adjustment Application Review Report for a garage addition and construction of a mudroom on the property.

Montroy made a motion to accept the application; seconded by Seibert. All other present members voted in favor.

SOIL MOVEMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Valente, 83 Bridal Path Lane, Block 1, Lot 115, E-BD-216-3475

The Environmental Commission reviewed a Soil Movement Permit Application for the addition of a drainage pipe to the existing drainage swale along the street.

Charles made a motion to approved the application based on the comments above; seconded by Montroy. All in favor.

TENANT APPLICATIONS

The following tenant application was reviewed and accepted:

Diversified Supplies LLC, 46 Industrial Avenue, Block 110.01, Lot 3, TA22-0027
School supplies wholesale company

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various emails, public notices and agendas

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Giveaway Update

Seibert brought in an example of one of the seedlings he received at the tree giveaway. It has sprouted leaves and was ready for permanent planting. We will use this as an example at future giveaways to indicate the potential for bareroot seedlings.

Salem Oak Seedling

Wolf said he is going to plant the Salem Oak seedling we received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He is awaiting guidance from DPW.

Environmental Display

Coda has volunteered to put together the display for Mahwah Day. Wolf asked members to think about topic ideas for September.

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Environmental Commission was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. following a motion by Montroy; seconded by Galow. All in favor. The next meeting will be held via remote video conference and in-person at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, and is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 7 p.m.

J. Storms
Secretary